



# The Fire Door

The Official Publication of the Southern California Live Steamers, Inc.

P.O. Box 11322, Torrance, CA 90510 - 1322 (310) 328 – 0236

November 2008

The Southern California Live Steamers, Inc. has been in existence since 1948. The mission of the Southern California Live Steamers is to educate and promote interest in railroad history by building and operating a miniature railroad facility.

New members are always welcome to join the club; just show up at Wilson Park, 2100 Washington Avenue, on run day (the first Sunday of the month) or at a regular meeting (the third Sunday of the month). Member support is especially needed on run day! The November run day is **November 2, 2008**, so please come and support the club.

Regular meetings of the club are held on the third regular Saturday of each month in the club house at Wilson Park, Torrance, California beginning at 11:00 AM. The next club meeting will be **November 15, 2008**.

sources of funding would need to be found. Donor bricks were one suggested source of fund raising.

### New Business

#### Donated Items

Jim Berryman purchased universal precision steel frogs, switch points, switch stands, and couplers and donated them to the Club.

#### Elections

Heather Ambler and Jo Anne Smith volunteered to serve as the election committee. Thirty four of forty seven ballots were received.

The election results are as follows:

President	Tim Brothers
Vice President	Rudy Guajardo
Secretary	Lynn Fielding,
Treasurer	Kelley Smith

#### Christmas Party

Dave Cox motioned that the Christmas Party be held on Sunday, December 21, 2008. Lynn Fielding seconded. All in favor. Phil Nyman motioned that the Club pay the whole cost of the party. Motion dies for lack of a second. Teri McQuerrey motioned that those attending the Christmas Party pay ten dollars. Lynn Fielding seconded. All in favor. Lynn Fielding will order the food from Monarca's Mexican Food.

#### November Run Day

Joe Vanderhoof motioned that all donations from the November Run Day be used for landscaping. Rudy Guajardo seconded. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM. There were 28 members present at the meeting.

### 2009 SCLS Officers:

President:	Tim Brothers (310) 618 - 0674 TTBrothe@lasd.org
Vice President:	Rudy Guajardo (310) 984 – 9550 xcitedgoats@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Kelley Smith (562) 598 – 4090 choochookelley@earthlink.net
Secretary:	Lynn Fielding (310) 533 – 8627 lfielding@elcamino.edu

### October 18, 2008 Minutes

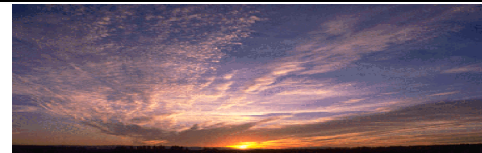
The meeting opened at 11:00 AM by President Tim Brothers. Minutes from September were read by Lynn Fielding and accepted with no corrections. The minutes were published in the October newsletter.

Guests present: none.

### Old Business

#### Torrance Rail Park at Wilson Park

Tim Brothers reported that no City of Torrance funding is available for the proposed new building and other



Run Day – **October 5, 2008**  
1,533 Riders

The October Run Day weather was warm and sunny with little cloud cover.



## DUES

Annual club membership dues of \$40 are payable in November. Please submit your check payable to the Southern California Live Steamers as soon as possible, but by January 31, 2009.

### Crafts Project

Attention ladies, plan to stay after the business meeting on November 15, 2008 for a special crafts project. Bring a hot glue gun if possible. Contact Linda Peters at (310) 787 - 8775 for more information.

# The Early Years of the Southern California Live Steamers

By Harlan Hiney,  
Son of Charter member Laurence Hiney

How did The Club Come to Be?

Live steam modelers were scattered all over the United States in the late 1920's, most not even aware of each other. The first person to start any sort of organization was Charles Purinton, from Marblehead, Massachusetts. He put together a loose leaf book with names of live steamers, including a photograph of their locomotive and asked that it be circulated around the country. The Wandering Locomotive Book, as Charlie called it, found its way from Mr. Gunnick, of Wichita Falls, Texas to Ernie Freeman of Los Angeles, California. In Purinton's letter of November 9, 1933 to Ernie, he states, "I can see no reason why you should not sign up Mr. Jackson and any other responsible live steamers in your vicinity."

A month earlier, Purinton held what was the first annual meeting of the Brotherhood of Live Steamers, on October 15, 1933. Mr. Lawrence, who was from England, proposed the concept of a Brotherhood of Live Steamers, and suggested Purinton start one in the United States.

Very slowly, the local Southern California model makers began to get acquainted with one another. My father, Laurence Hiney, knew Ernie Freeman, who lived in the Rancho Park area, Dick Jackson who had just moved from Denver to Santa Monica, and Eddie Sargeant who lived in Sanborn Junction, near Echo Park.

In July 1941, Lester Friend, President of the New England Live Steamers, paid a visit to Southern California, with the intent of getting the local live steamers to form a club. He met with Dick Bagley, Eddie Sargeant, Kyle Testerman, Arthur "Bud" Stump, and C.S."Stan" Chovil and in January 1942, The Southern California Live Steamers was formed with 35 charter members at Richard B. Jackson's backyard machine shop in Beverly Hills, California. The membership elected Dick Bagley, chair; Dick Jackson, vice chair; Stan Chovil, treasurer; Bud Stump, secretary; and Ward Kimball, corresponding secretary.

Meetings were held at 8 PM on the second Thursday of each month at member's homes. One Sunday of each Month, Jackson would steam up the 900, his one inch scale 4-4-0 and operate it over his garden layout, *The Colorado Central Railroad*, for all the members and their families to enjoy. Every so often Jim Keith would bring his 4-6-4 Number 300 from Riverside and they would run 2 trains around the 300 foot loop crossing a gold fish pond fed by a water fall, over a trestle, through a tree lined cut, and back to the loading platform where there

was a passing siding. A 3 way stub switch at the east end of the siding also lead to a turntable and a steam up track.

Jackson's layout served as the first Club track. When parking in front of his two story home on Alpine Drive, the aroma of coal smoke would greet the members as they came through the side gate by the Jacaranda tree. By mid afternoon Dick would serve lemonade or apple cider and cookies as a refreshment for all to enjoy



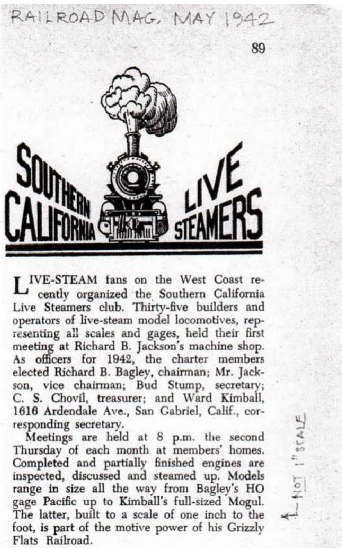
Stay tuned for future new letters and find the answers to questions such as:

Who were some of the first Club first members?

How did the Club come to be at Lomita?

Why was the Club not named the Los Angeles Live Steamers?

Who created the Club logo that is still used to date?

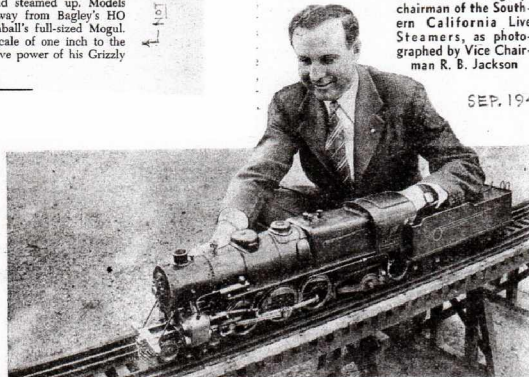


LIVE-STEAM fans on the West Coast recently organized the Southern California Live Steamers club. Thirty-five builders and operators of live-steam model locomotives, representing all scales and gauges, held their first meeting at Richard B. Jackson's machine shop. As officers for 1942, the charter members elected Richard B. Bagley, chairman; Mr. Jackson, vice chairman; Bud Stump, secretary; C. S. Chovil, treasurer; and Ward Kimball, 1616 Ardendale Ave., San Gabriel, Calif., corresponding secretary.

Meetings are held at 8 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at members' homes. Completed and partially finished engines are inspected, discussed and steamed up. Models range in size all the way from Bagley's HO gauge Pacific up to Kimball's full-sized Mogul. The latter, built to a scale of one inch to the foot, is part of the motive power of his Grizzly Flats Railroad.

NOT TO SCALE

Richard B. Bagley, chairman of the Southern California Live Steamers, as photographed by Vice Chairman R. B. Jackson



SEP. 1942

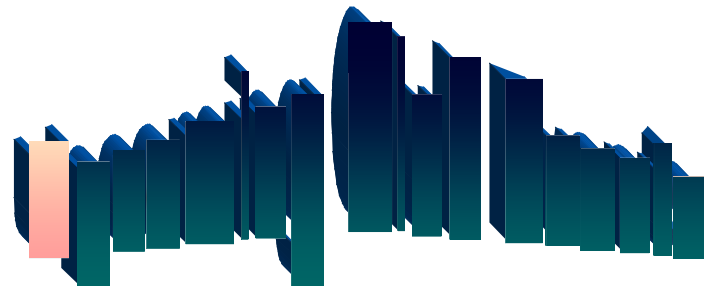
The "Canopus," a 2½-inch-gauge coal-burning live steamer, was built by Robt. E. Hicks, 10766 Wellworth Ave., West Los Angeles, Calif., in leisure time between 1929 and 1936, from H. J. Coventry castings and drawings. She is a hybrid of B&O P-7 and Pennsy K4s, with a Pennsy tank. Her cylinders are 13/16-inch diameter by 1½-inch stroke, drivers 3 5/16 inches in diameter and boiler pressure 100 pounds. Equipped with Walschaert valve gear

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For additional information, contact Lynn Fielding at [lfielding@elcamino.edu](mailto:lfielding@elcamino.edu) or (310) 533 - 8627.



Those wishing to attend the Christmas Party need contact Lynn Fielding at [lfielding@elcamino.edu](mailto:lfielding@elcamino.edu).



Run Day November 2, 2008  
 Business Meeting November 15, 2008  
 Run Day December 7, 2008  
 Christmas Party December 21, 2008

## Comments, Ideas, or Suggestions

As newsletter editor, I welcome your feedback, comments, corrections, and suggestions for material to include. Please contact me directly, at the address provided, by phone, or by e - mail.

Lynn

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 SCLS Newsletter Editor  
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Steamers, keep on chugging along!

**Of Interest:**  
**Southern California Live Steamers Christmas Party**

This year's Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 21 at 11:00 AM. There is no business meeting. Lunch will cost \$10 per person (collected on the day of the party) and will include a catered Mexican feast.

A gift exchange will be held. To participate, bring an unused, wrapped gift of approximately \$10 to \$15 in value. **Please make these adult gifts that are not gender specific.** Gifts should be railroad related items or tools.

The rules of the gift exchange are that a member may select a wrapped gift or "take" an unwrapped gift from a member. Once the gift has been "taken" three times it is frozen and can not be selected again. The first person to select a gift will have the choice of keeping that gift or selecting an "unfrozen" gift.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

